

FT. MYER MILITARY COMMUNITY RETIREMENT SERVICES BULLETIN

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT MYER MILITARY COMMUNITY
ATTN: ARMY RETIREMENT SERVICES OFFICE
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GARRISON COMMANDER
FORT MYER, VIRGINIA

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Retirement Services Officer

VOLUME 9 NUMBER 2-2004

FALL/WINTER 2004

THIS BULLETIN IS PUBLISHED SEMI-ANNUALLY AS A SERVICE TO ALL RETIREES, WIDOWS, AND THEIR DEPENDENTS RESIDING WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE U.S. ARMY FORT MYER MILITARY COMMUNITY. THE CONTENTS, WHICH ARE NOT DIRECTIVE IN NATURE, ARE INTENDED AS A REPORT ON INTERESTING AND SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM AND ARE BASED ON CURRENT REGULATIONS, GUIDANCE AND REPORTS.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT MYER MILITARY COMMUNITY
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

THE COMMANDER, MDW, HAS DETERMINED THAT THE PUBLICATION OF THIS PERIODICAL IS NECESSARY IN THE TRANSACTION OF THE PUBLIC BUSINESS AS REQUIRED BY LAW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY. USE OF FUNDS FOR PRINTING THIS PUBLICATION HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE COMMANDER, U.S. ARMY MILITARY DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON (MDW), IN ACCORDANCE WITH AR 25-30. VIEWS AND OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS PERIODICAL ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY OR MDW.



FROM THE GARRISON COMMANDER
Colonel Thomas A. Allmon

I hope that you all had a safe and joyous holiday season. As the new Garrison Commander of the Fort Myer Military Community (FMMC), please accept my heartfelt appreciation for all that you do for our community and our Nation. Retirees are the backbone of the Armed Services and we value your contributions, your support of our programs and facilities, and your dedication to improving the quality of life for Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and their families. I thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to visit with many members of our retiree community during the FMMC's Retiree Appreciation Day in September, and I thank you for affording me the opportunity to provide you with an overview of some of the upcoming projects in the FMMC.

The FMMC has gone through many changes and challenges in 2004. We implemented our Most Efficient Organization, in conjunction with the Installation Management Agency's Standard Garrison Organization, resulting in personnel shifts and reductions. In addition, the Installation Management Agency implemented a military to civilian conversion initiative that will result in the loss of almost all garrison military personnel over the course of 2005. This is an Army wide effort to put more Soldiers at the tip of the spear. This will be the general standard for all Army garrisons across the country with many positions that are currently filled by military personnel being filled by federal civilians or contract employees. This

conversion also affects our military police. As 2005 progresses, you will begin seeing fewer Soldiers manning our gates and patrolling our streets. These duties will be performed by contractor security forces or DA civilian police, and I assure you they will be professional, in demeanor and appearance, and will continue to ensure the safety of all of our visitors just as our fine Soldiers do. The US Army Military District of Washington officially became a Joint Force Headquarters for the National Capital Region in September - the only standing joint force headquarters in the United States. The FMMC stands ready to support their mission, as we did for the State Funeral for President Ronald Wilson Reagan in June.

Wright Gate construction should be completed by the end of January 2005, and in the Spring of 2005, you will see gate construction begin on Hatfield Gate, the main entrance to Fort Myer, which may result in traffic congestion. I ask for your patience when entering/exiting the installation during this construction period. We will publish information well in advance to advise you of what gates will be available for entering and exiting Fort Myer. In addition, gate projects at Fort McNair will soon begin; however, these should minimally impact traffic entering and exiting Fort McNair. Two of our partner units will deploy in 2005 in support of the Global War on Terrorism, the 767th Explosives Ordnance Detachment, located at Fort McNair, and D Company, 3d US Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard), located at Fort Myer. We look forward to

FORT MYER, VIRGINIA
RETIREMENT SERVICES
B U L L E T I N

all of our deployed Soldiers and federal civilians returning home safely and our prayers will be with them during their deployments.

As I mentioned previously, the FMHC is converting to a predominantly federal civilian and contractor workforce and this will impact our casualty notification mission, as we will have a smaller Soldier population to task for this very important and honorable mission. Our Headquarters Command Battalion developed a pilot program to have retiree volunteers perform duties as Casualty Assistance Officers. This program began in October 2004. If you are interested in being a volunteer Casualty Assistance Officer, please contact my Casualty Assistance and Mortuary Affairs Officer, Mr. Kenneth Washington, at (703) 696-3237. He will be happy to discuss the program with you, as well as the training that his office will provide.

As always, our MWR activities are open and we welcome your continued patronage during the upcoming year.

For my wife, Sheree, and our children, we thank you for welcoming us into the Fort Myer Military Community family.

NOTES FROM THE OUTGOING CHAIR'S DESK

COL (Ret.) Reginald Grier, EdD,
301-336-78-79; rcgrier@erols.com

46th Retiree Appreciation Day,
24 SEP 2004

Council Activities Report

The 46th Annual Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) at Spates Community Club, Fort Myer on 24 September 2004 was a great success with more than 100 retirees

participating. I sincerely hope that you enjoyed the coffee and cookies provided by Five Star Catering, visiting with the many participating organizations, and had a chance to visit and take advantage of their services, renew old relationships, and sit on the rustic benches at the Retiree Plaza.

At 0930 two buses loaded with retirees departed Spates Community Club for Arlington National Cemetery where a wreath was laid at the Tomb of the Unknowns. COL Cohn and SGM Brown, honorees, assisted in the wreath laying. The remainder of the retirees present looked on as the U.S. Army Band bugler played Taps. All returned to the Club for more interaction with the participating organizations followed by a delicious buffet lunch.

I would like to recognize Mr. Ed Gonzales, Director of Community Activities, whose office provided the funds for the beautiful fountain pens you found in your gratuity bags, Ms. Tina Johnson, RSO ably assisted by SGT Price and SGT Copes, and the Retiree Council members who made Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) 2004 a very memorable occasion. Let me also thank the U.S. Army Blues Combo, who played memorable music during lunch, and the U.S. Army Chorus, who provided outstanding patriotic songs after lunch. I would like to especially recognize Ms. Johnson, RSO for her delivery of an impressive number of quality door prizes from AAFEEES, Spates Community Club, Fort Myer Officers Club, and the Fort Myer Bowling Center that were awarded to the lucky number holders.

We were fortunate to have as our keynote speaker, COL Thomas Allmon, Fort Myer Military Community Garrison Commander who gave an excellent update presentation on

upcoming events, building and construction, and changes under consideration. His speech was accompanied by a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation. The speech was followed by a question and answer period which was participated in by many attending retirees.

Retiree Appreciation Day concluded with a 90 minute seminar presented by the Judge Advocate General office. More than twenty-five retirees attended this seminar which provided valuable law related information.

Since the November 2003 RAD, the Retiree Council has had several positive experiences. The Communications Committee, chaired by SGM McCoy produced a Retiree Bulletin and is prepared to publish another by early next year. It will feature our recently departed brother, MAJ James C. Queen who served on the Council for more than ten years. SGM McCoy was also instrumental, with the help of the other Council committee Chairs in putting together the exciting RAD 2004. The Ceremonies Committee, chaired by SGM Brown among other things, took care of the wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown. The Legislative Committee, chaired by LTC Strauss has remained abreast and reported on past and present legislation affecting retirees, especially that which pertains to Concurrent Receipt. The Medical Committee, chaired by COL Cohn attended meetings at Rader Clinic and Walter Reed Army Medical Center, espousing retiree concerns and more. The Services Committee, chaired by COL Sievers, regularly attended Garrison Services Committee meetings, and publishes in the Retiree Bulletin those web sites that are of interest to retirees. The Council held its 19 August 2004 meeting at the Armed Forces Retirement Home/Washington,

interacting with the residents and relaying their concerns to the Fort Myer Garrison Commander. Seven members of the Council participated in the annual Army Family Action Plan conference, serving as members of the Medical, Family Support, and Entitlements groups, producing outcomes of benefit to active and retired military families and single soldiers.

At a recent Council Executive meeting, it was established that effective 1 October 2004, the Council assumed a new organization structure, specifically a Co-Chair structure as opposed to a single Chairperson. At that meeting, the Executive Committee also elected COL Cohn and SGM Brown as the FMMC Retiree Council Co-Chairs. COL Greenfield will replace COL Cohn as Chair of the Medical Committee, and MAJ Johnson will replace SGM Brown as Chair of the Ceremonies Committee. I want to thank all who assisted me in my three years as Chair of the Retiree Council. I will remain on the Council and assist with its operation to the extent to which I am able.

FROM THE RSO's DESK

Tina Johnson, Retirement Services Officer

The next Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) has been scheduled for September 30, 2005.

FORGOTTEN WIDOWS' TO RECEIVE BENEFITS

Annuities for Certain Military Surviving Spouses (ACMSS). Certain widows of military retirees not automatically included in the Military's Survivor's Benefit Plan (SBP) when it started in 1972, became eligible for a monthly payment of \$165.00 as of 1 Dec 1997. As of 1 Dec 2004 it has increased to \$197.51.

Eligibility for these payments was outlined in Army Echoes.

FORT MYER, VIRGINIA
RETIREMENT SERVICES
BULLETIN

Because there is no data bank listing for all eligible surviving spouses, any surviving spouse who has reason to question their eligibility should contact the RSO at Ft. Myer: 703-696-5948, for additional information and application form. We encourage all who read this bulletin to pass this information on to anyone they know who might be eligible.

Army Echoes

Echoes by E-mail

Our thanks to the more than 7,000 retirees who have volunteered to receive *Army Echoes* by e-mail instead of by paper copy. (This number increases by the hour!) It will be a challenge for us to continue this growing take off paper copy/add to e-mail list, but it's a challenge we're very happy to undertake!!! It is wonderful that so many Army retirees are responding to our request. We have heard from some retirees having trouble using the **Echoes@hoffman.army.mil** address. Please note that this is an e-mail address, not a Web site. And, once again, thanks for your support!

NOTES FROM THE CEREMONY DESK

MAJ Andrew C. Johnson, Retired,
Chair

Awarding Decorations

When Congress authorized the Korean Service Medal, veterans who were eligible requested this decoration and received it in the mail. This appears as a very poor way to show appreciation for service rendered; we can do better! Military installations throughout the country celebrate on various occasions with retreat parades or, at a minimum, conduct Retiree Appreciation Days. Veterans and

retirees receiving newly authorized decorations should be invited to their nearest military facility, bring their decorations and be honored and recognized appropriately at an event selected by the respective post commander. FMMC's Retiree Council supports this issue to the extent that formal presentation is feasible as determined by the respective installation command group. At Ft. Myer this will be accomplished at a specified monthly retreat Parade. Personnel who have received this medal and who want to included call the Ft. Myer RSO, 703-696-5948, and provide rank, name and dates of Korean service.

NOTES FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS DESK

SGM Charles E. McCoy, Retired,
Chair

OBITUARY

Major James Carlton Queen, (Jim), a native Washingtonian, was born on Army Day, April 6, 1926. He was educated in the District of Columbia Public Schools during the "separate, but not equal" period of education. He was the Commanding Officer (Colonel) of the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, 24th Infantry Regiment named after the original Black Regiment established in 1867, which played a vital part in the settlement of the American West. Jim was also active in athletics and received varsity sports letters in football and swimming. Jim received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from the District of Columbia Teachers College and his Master of Arts Degree from the University of Maryland. He completed all the course work required for his Doctorate and had but his thesis to complete. He is a Lifetime member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Jim was also a life time member of The NAACP.

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**NOTES FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS DESK,
cont.**

Jim enlisted in the Army in February 1944 at the age of seventeen. He was sent to Howard University to study engineering under the Army Specialized Training Program (Reserves). After WWII, he remained in the service and attained the rank of Staff Sergeant. He attended Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant Infantry at Fort Benning, Georgia, in April 1946. Jim continued in the Army and attained the rank of Major until his retirement in May of 1964, in the early stages of the Vietnam War. He was an Infantry Soldier. He completed Airborne School (Maroon Berets), Ranger School (Black Berets), Special Forces School (Green Berets), Pathfinder School, and Glider Training. Jim served with the 82nd Airborne Division, 2nd Ranger Company, 11th Airborne Division, 555th Airborne Division, (Smoke Jumpers), and the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne). Jim made the Munson-ni, Korea combat jump with the Rangers, attached to the 187th ARCT, in March 1951. His awards included: Expert and Combat Infantry Badge, Master Parachutist Badge with Star, Pathfinder Badge, Ranger TAB, Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, as well as several service ribbons. In 1948, Jim married the former Phyllis Jeffreys who preceded him in death in August of 2001. Together they had seven children. Jim had been a volunteer leader and worker with the Boy Scouts for several years. He retired from the District of Columbia Public School System where he started as Special Education teacher and ended as the Assistant Principal of H.D. Woodson Senior High School in Washington, DC. In August of 1994, Jim became the first African American to be inducted into the "Ranger Hall of Fame" for his service and leadership as the 2nd Ranger Company Executive Officer. His fight in the "Battle For Hill 581" during the Korean War earned him a Silver Star for his outstanding combat leadership. The 2nd Ranger Company (Airborne) was the

only all Black Ranger unit in the History of the United States Military. Jim believed that the most difficult thing to overcome was the fear of failure. "You have to train for difficult situations and have confidence in yourself and in your ability to make a correct decision under trying and arduous conditions," he often said.

Just days before his passing, Jim completed his book, "BUFFALO RANGERS IN KOREA, 1950-1951" which was scheduled to be published in June of 2004. Jim loved and often shared his memories of his military days with his family and friends.

Having served on the Fort Myer Retiree Council he will be missed by all.

**NOTES FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE'S
DESK**

LTC George H. Strauss, Retired, Chair

On October 28 the FY 2005 Defense Authorization Act was signed. It provided for: (1) A phase out over the next 3 ½ years of survivor benefit payment (SBP) reductions, from the current maximum reduction of 35% in 6 month intervals to the full 55% of military retired pay for the surviving spouse. Survivors will no longer have to pay extra premiums to obtain the maximum benefit. An open enrollment period is established from October 2005 to September 2006. The next issue of Army Echoes will provide detail.

(2) Full concurrent receipt of military retired pay for 100% service connected disability retirees. The effective date is January 2005. No changes to the legislation enacted last year and covered in the last two issues of Army Echoes. (3) Permanent ID cards for spouses and widows over age 75. Prior to traveling to the Fort Myer ID card section telephone to make sure that the office is open. (703-696-0015). (4) A number of other provisions not related to retirees, including a 3.5% active duty military pay raise.

Separately, a 2.7% increase in the annual cost of living index used for increases in Social Security payments,

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civilian and military retired pay, and veterans compensation was announced.

NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL COMMITTEE'S DESK COL Arlene F. Greenfield, Chair

Rader Clinic Hours

Regular Clinic hours are Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. except that PC 100 and the pharmacy are open from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information and to confirm the hours of operation, call 703-696-3447 or review the Rader web site (access through the FMMC Home Page).: fortmyer@fmmc.army.mil

Medical Care Within The DeWitt Hospital System For Retirees

In the past, active duty personnel who were enrolled in TRICARE Prime and received their medical treatment in the DeWitt Hospital system (including Rader Clinic and outlying clinics) could continue using the DeWitt system upon retirement as long as they continue paying for their TRICARE Prime enrollment. In view of fiscal constraints and staff shortages, this will no longer be feasible. At retirement, personnel enrolled in TRICARE Prime will be required to seek care in the civilian sector. Primary Care physicians in the DeWitt system will be prepared to assist in this transition.

A similar transition will occur when retirees reach 65 and transition from TRICARE Prime to TRICARE For Life. Those retirees who had received treatment in the DeWitt system while enrolled in TRICARE Prime, will now be guided to seek care in the civilian sector, with the assistance of their respective Primary Care Provider. Retirees approaching age 65 are urged to make an appointment with their Primary Care Provider to discuss their pending transition with him/her. Except for these two required transitions, the two mentioned life cycle events, all retirees presently enrolled for care in the DeWitt system

as TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Plus patients will be retained for care within the system.

Retiree ID Cards Within DeWitt Hospital System

Kiosks are being set up within the DeWitt Hospital System, in order to facilitate administrative processing. All personnel entering the hospital for appointments or for pharmacy service will be asked to enter the kiosk and scan their respective ID card to register. Some long-term retirees may still possess ID cards which do not have a bar code on the back of the card. If you possess such an ID card, you are urged to personally report to the ID Section at Fort Myer (once it has resumed operational status) or Fort Belvoir and request the issuance of an updated ID card

NOTES FROM THE SERVICES COMMITTEE'S DESK

COL Ralph Sievers, Retired, Chair

Fort Myer Casualty Assistance Center Needs Volunteers

Everyday active duty and retired Army soldiers die. Everyday the Army helps the survivors to deal with the absence and obtain their benefits and entitlements.

As our Army grows smaller and focuses more and more on forward-deployed events, the burden of completing survivor assistance falls on the ever-smaller pool of remaining soldiers within our installations. Some of our dedicated Army retirees want to help out with the assistance to families. We would like to marry our needs with your offers to assist.

We are currently looking for retired soldiers that wish to give more. We have started a small pilot program to assess how to best incorporate Army retired into the active duty program for survivor assistance. This six month program will look at volunteers (Army retired soldiers) in the Fort Myer area only. This area covers Washington D.C., part of Northern Virginia, and part of Southern Maryland.

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We need compassionate individuals to help the survivors through this difficult period. We would prefer that you have not personally lost someone close to you (wife, daughter, son, mother, father) within the last year. Your capacity to be effective at helping another grieving family is greatly diminished if you are still grieving your loss.

You can expect to do a variety of tasks, involving a great amount of detail work. Completion of benefits/entitlements paperwork will require time, attention to detail, thorough coordination, tenacity, and ability to work well with others. You should be in good health and able to drive. We prefer that you do not have another full time job that may conflict with ability to see your assigned family on their terms/ schedule.

We will train you to complete every aspect of your job. This training is not arduous but does require a small amount of your time before you can start.

As a volunteer you are not paid for your time. You will be reimbursed for basic travel costs (mileage, parking, tolls) in and around the Washington DC area and for phone calls in connection with official Army business. Your travel will not be outside of the D.C. metro area.

Due to this pilot program only lasting a short time, you may not get a family assignment during this period. Never fear. We anticipate that it will go well and we will be able to permanently add retired Army soldiers to the list of people able to assist families when they need it most.

If you think you could provide valuable assistance to another retiree's family, contact Mr. Ken Washington if you would like to help. You can contact them through telephone, (703) 696-3237, fax, (703) 696-3236, email, Casualty@fmmc.army.mil, or by mail, Fort Myer Casualty Assistance Center (CAC), Building 202, 106 Custer Road, Fort Myer, Virginia 22211-5050.

Web Sites of FMMC Retiree Interest

The principal listing of web sites of interest to retirees is a feature of "Army Echoes." The sites listed below supplement that listing.. Additions to the list are invited, and may be provided by e-mail to:

esviknasl@aol.com [Notes: These entries include information on official sites. Information on some non-governmental sites is included because of its possible interest to retirees. The information provided on these sites is based on personal review but its inclusion does not constitute endorsement of the non-governmental activities. This article is not a recommendation to subscribe to any of the commercial services or any additional services that may be offered at the sites. Contents of web sites may have changed since their review for this article.]

An asterisk precedes Entries new in this issue of the Bulletin (*).

GOVERNMENT SITES

Army Band: www.army.mil/armyband

Army Link:
<http://www.army.mil/ocpa/menu.php>

Defense Link: www.defenselink.mil Site includes DOD news releases, DOD web sites, special reports, and American forces news

(*)Disability Compensation Assistance:
www.crsc.army.mil Site assists disabled retirees to receive non-offset disability compensation.

DOD Web site -- Information on the War on Terrorism:

<http://www.defendamerica.mil>

FMMC Home Site: www.fmmc.army.mil

The site and pages on the site includes hours and telephone numbers for most of the activities of interest. The site also includes (among many) pages with Ft. Myer background and organization and separate pages for activities that include: Army Community Services (activities, use of volunteers, etc.), Recreation Services (similar to fmmcmwr.com), commissary (similar to page at www.commissaries.com), exchange (similar to page at www.aafes.com),

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Rader Clinic, Memorial Chapel (schedule and location of services), Tax Center, and Casualty Affairs.

FMMC Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR): www.fmmcmwr.com The site includes a link to offdutytravel.com. This site, developed by the U.S. Army Community & Family Support Center exclusively for authorized MWR patrons, has links to Internet fare finders and travel providers (air, cruise, rail, car) and tips on how to get the best fare by searching the web or being flexible about travel dates.

Government Benefits:

<http://govbenefits.gov> Site identifies and provides information about US Government benefits.

Medicare: www.medicare.gov Site includes information on the program and provides for identifying participating physicians, by specialty, state, county, city, etc.

National Institute of Health Site: www.nih.gov Site includes listings of available publications and fact sheets (including diseases and conditions of special concern to seniors). Some specific NIH on-line databases available free are:

Pentagram Online Site:

<http://www.dcmilitary.com/army/pentagram/index.html>

Rader Clinic: Access through FMMC Home Site (described above)

(*)Retirement Benefit Information: <https://www.abc.army.mil>

This is the Army Benefits Center Web site. Civilian employees can get personal retirement information from the site with an ABC-C password by clicking on "Benefit Change" then "Set Password. You will need a leave and earnings statement or an SF-50 (notification of personnel action) to fill in information pertinent to you. The ABC-Civilian Web site provides benefit and entitlement services to Army employees through a centralized automated center. The Center takes care of all advisory services and transactions for federal employee health benefits, group FERS and life insurance, Thrift Savings Plan and retirements (including CSRS). You can even switch to "Uniformed Services"

benefits at the site.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL SITES

(*) Army Emergency Relief (AER) web site: www.aerhq.org
Information on Hoax Stories and Virus Warnings:

<http://www.stiller.com/hoaxes.htm> and <http://www.urbanlegends.com>

Military Living Publications Site:

www.militaryliving.com

"Military Report" News Service Free Subscription: www.militaryreport.com

This site offers a free e-mail subscription to weekly news of actions affecting the military and other items of interest and items oriented on the recipients as potential customers. This is a commercial enterprise that is apparently supported by the exposure of the recipients to offers and advertisements.

Veterans History Project Web Site:

www.loc.gov/veterans To become involved with the project, visit the web site at www.loc.gov/veterans or call the toll-free number at 1-888-371-5848.

Veterans News and Information Services:

www.vnis.com A commercial site providing news items and the opportunity to subscribe (free) to various e-mail newsletters,

AER assistance to widows, widowers

Army Emergency Relief (AER) is available to widows and widowers to help them through the initial period following the death of a spouse before benefits such as the Survivor Benefit Plan, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation and Social Security begin. Assistance is normally provided for routine monthly expenses such as rent or mortgage, utilities, car payments and groceries. **This assistance is provided to widows and widowers as a grant, not a loan.** As part of AER's commitment to widows and widowers whose spouses are killed or died while on active duty, AER has formed a partnership with Armed Forces Services Corporation to provide lifetime support. The partnership entitles the survivor to specialized services at no

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cost to them. Widows or widowers can activate these services by calling AFSC at 1-888-237-2872. See the AER web site at www.aerhq.org and get more information locally at 703-696-3510.

Army Family Action Plan Input

Each installation develops its candidate issues for eventual forwarding to the Army level AFAP conference. The Retiree Committee provides representatives to AFAP (seven representatives at the 2004 FMFC AFAP conference). AFAP issues have resulted in legislation, changes in policies and regulations, and a more responsive Army for active duty and retired members of the Army community. Retirees who have issues they wish presented for consideration at the next conference may discuss those with representatives of the Retiree Committee or may submit them by e-mail to esviknas1@aol.com

The National Museum of the U.S. Army

The planned museum is an official project of the Army (through the Center of Military History). The Army Historical Society has accepted responsibility for raising the necessary private contributions to finance the design and construction of the museum, which is to be built at Ft. Belvoir. The estimated completion date is 14 June 2009. Contributors of \$20 or more are to be identified in the register of Founding Sponsors, to be kept on permanent display at the museum and are provided a certificate. Contributors of more than \$20 receive additional mementos, as described in the solicitation brochure. The brochure and other information are available from: National Museum of the U.S. Army, 2425 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia, 22201 (Phone: (703) 522-7901. In the most recent period the fund raising cost has been 19% of the funds raised.

Commissary Hours

The commissary hours are given below. These can be verified at the commissary web site (access through the FMFC Home Page). Disabled shoppers are permitted to start their shopping 30 minutes

earlier than the "regular" opening hour.

	<u>Early Bird</u>	<u>Regular</u>
Sunday	0900-1000	1000-1700
Monday	0700-0830	0830-1930
Tuesday	0700-0830	0830-1930
Wednesday	0700-0830	0830-1930
Thursday	0700-0830	0830-1930
Friday	0700-0830	0830-1930
Saturday	0700-0800	0800-1830

Legal assistance available throughout National Capital Region

There are a number of military tax centers which provide free federal, and state tax preparation assistance, electronic filing, tax forms and help to all military active duty and retired service members and their eligible family members. The FMFC tax center is in Building 228, Fort Myer, VA 22211-1199. Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Tax Center users should make appointments (walk-ins are accepted of filers of Form 1040EZ only). Call 703-696-1040 for an appointment or for more information.

Day Trips from the Community Center

Retirees and their dependents are eligible to participate in the one-day bus outings arranged by the Ft. Myer Community Center. These have included day trips to Atlantic City, ski trips, Busch Gardens, Kings Dominion, Luray Caverns, Rappahannock River tubing, guided canoe trips, and Chesapeake Bay fishing. Information on planned trips can be obtained at (703) 696-3470

Fingerprinting Availability

The FMFC Military Police Civilian Liaison Section does fingerprinting for personnel who need prints for job applications, security clearances and the like, as well as for youngsters with the MP "Kid ID" fingerprint program. All active duty, reserve component and retired military personnel, DoD civilians and family members are eligible to use the fingerprint service.

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For more information, call 703-696-0061
or 703-696-3525.

Army Career and Alumni Program

Your service really pays off. Like all Army veterans, retirees can use Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP) services on a space required basis for up to 180 days beyond their departure from active duty. But, did you know that Army retirees can also receive ACAP services for life on a space available basis? Their ID card carrying family members can, too.

What's it all mean: full access to job assistance training; free resume critiques and assistance; preparation for job fairs; preparation for job interviews; access to automated career exploration tools that can help you identify the right **NEW** career.

Contact Ft. Myer ACAP Center for additional information or appointment call (703) 696-0973. You can also visit us on-line at www.acap.army.mil



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SGM Robert L. Brown Jr.

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